



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/659,261	09/11/2000	Nimrod Megiddo	ARC9-2000-0081-US1	5596

7590 01/13/2004

Marc McSwain Esq
Counsel IP Law Dept IBM Corporation
Almaden Research Center
Mail Drop C4TA J2B
San Jose, CA 95120-6099

EXAMINER

PARDO, THUY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2175

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/659,261

Applicant(s)

MEGIDDO ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on November 04, 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2175

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on November 11, 2003 in response to Examiner's Office Action has been reviewed.

2. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Stern et al. (Hereinafter "Stern") US Patent Application No. 2002/0052928, in view of Liddy et al. (Hereinafter "Liddy") US Patent No. 6,304,864.

As to claim 1, Stern teaches a method of providing links to remotely located information in a network of remotely connected computers [see the abstract and fig. 1], said method comprising the steps of

Art Unit: 2175

- a) associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs) [internal link as function of keywords and an unique identifier for the Web site, 0055, 0057-0067 on page 3];
- b) logging associated shorthand links in a registry database [a links-to-visit table, see the abstract; a list of internal links and selecting from remaining internal links as function of keywords, 0055 of page 3];
- d) for each found said shorthand link, fetching said associated URL [the target URL associated with a link, 0029 of page 2].

However, Stern does not explicitly teach searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link. Liddy teaches searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link [see web pages' results corresponding to a search query, 65, 75 of fig. 3A; 79, 79A of fig. 3B; col. 11, lines 51-57].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to have modified Stern's system wherein the internal links of a Web site are collected and recorded in a links-to-visit table provided thereof would have incorporated the teachings of Liddy especially the methodology of searching a database for a shorthand link (or web pages) associated with an URL ; the motivation being to expand and enhance the versatility of Stern's system by allowing a user to search one or more of the addresses of the document retrieved from the search engines [see Liddy, col. 4, lines 55-59].

Art Unit: 2175

As to claim 2, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches

- I) requesting registration of a URL [table “links to visit”, 16 of fig. 3]:
- ii) selecting an unused key [inherent in the system]: and
- iii) pairing said selected key with said URL as a shorthand link [the target URL associated with a link, 0029 of page 2]..

As to claim 3, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that each key-URL, pair is entered in the registry database [16 of fig. 3].

As to claim 4, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having selected said shorthand link [0029 of pages 1 and 2].

As to claim 5, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having provided the paired key of the key URL pair [0029 of pages 1, 2; 16 of fig. 3].

As to claim 6, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that an error message is returned whenever a requestor provides a key not paired with a URL [0099-0106 of page 5].

Art Unit: 2175

As to claim 7, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed. Stern further teaches that when a provided key not associated with a URL is identified as corresponding to a key in a key-URL pair, presenting the identified URL to said requester [unique identifiers or web site signatures, see the abstract].

As to claims 8-13, all limitations of these claims have been rejected in the analysis of claims 1-7 above, and these claims have been rejected on that basis.

As to claims 14-26, Stern and Liddy teach the invention substantially as claimed as specified in claims 1-13 above, with the exception of computer readable program code means. However, since the method is processed in the computer system, the feature of having a computer readable program code means is inherently in the system in order to perform such functions and convert information from one form to another.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that Stern does not teach searching a database for a shorthand link associated with a URL responsive to selection of a shorthand link by a user of a web browser.

As to point this, Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner believes that this feature is taught by Stern. Stern teaches that search engines such as Yahoo, excite, Lycos, Alta Vista... etc have a user-friendly front end that accepts natural languages queries which are entered from users. These queries are analyzed to extract the keywords the user is looking for, and then a simple keyword-based search is performed through the engine's indexes. The results returned are

Art Unit: 2175

lists of web pages [see 0032, 0033 of page 2] (URLs). Examiner interprets that the shorthand link constitutes the internal link as function of keywords and unique identifier for the web site [0055; 0057-0067 of page 3].

Applicant argues that Liddy neither teaches nor suggests shorthand links. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Stern teaches a shorthand link with exception of searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link. Liddy teaches searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link [see web pages' results corresponding to a search query, 65, 75 of fig. 3A; 79, 79A of fig. 3B; col. 11, lines 51-57].

4. Applicant's arguments filed on November 04, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2175

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1091. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 (Official Communication)

and/or:

(703) 746-5616 (*Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to then on occasions*).

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

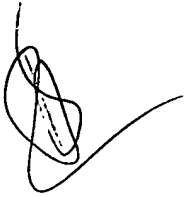
(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

Art Unit: 2175

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121
Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'T' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.

Thuy Pardo
January 09, 2004